

REMARKS

With entry of the instant amendment claims 1, 3, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-12 are therefore pending in the application. The amendments to the claims add no new matter. Support can be found, *e.g.*, on page 11, lines 19-24. Cancellation of subject matter that results from the amendments to the claims is without prejudice for subsequent revival for prosecution in a continuation or divisional application.

In response to the species election requirement to elect a species of target nucleic acid molecule, Applicants elect RNA. The claims that read on the elected species are claims 1 and 3-12.

In response to the species election requirement to elect a species of animal disease, Applicants elect a chronic illness as the species. The claims that read on the elected species are claims 1 and 3-12. This species election is made with traverse. The MPEP states at § 806.04(f) that "to require restriction between claims limited to species, the claims must not overlap in scope". Applicants note that the "species" B) spongiform encephalopathy and C) bovine spongiform encephalopathy overlap in scope with the elected species. Accordingly, these are not properly alternative species to the elected species A) chronic illness. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the election requirement.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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